

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Sargent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Sargent, Siani, Tsao,
Walter, and Chairperson Rudolph.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Engineering Manager Semaan,
Planning Manager Lodan,
Torrance Transit Administration Manager Mills, and
Torrance Police Department Sergeant Koenig.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 5, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to postpone approval of the March 5, 2012 Commission meeting minutes to the May 7, 2012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Walter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

Chairperson Rudolph explained the policies and procedures of the Traffic Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

**7a. TRAFFIC COMMISSION WORK PLAN – FIFTH PRIORITY
Encouraging other modes of transportation, such as pedestrian and shuttle buses to and from the Mall and other major commercial centers and Downtown Torrance**

Engineering Manager Semaan provided background on the fifth Work Plan priority and introduced Administration Manager Mills from Torrance Transit System, Planning Manager Lodan from the Community Development Department, and Torrance Police Department Sergeant Koenig.

Administration Manager Mills distributed the "Torrance Transit Bus Book" and presented an overview of current programs and future plans for Torrance Transit System. He reported that Torrance Transit has served for over 72 years, has 141 employees, a fleet of 63 buses, and eight fixed routes. He described several major transit projects that include a fleet modernization program, rapid bus program, 110 Freeway express lane project, and a regional Transit Center. He noted that the Transit Center would be located on Crenshaw Boulevard and is currently in design phase, with completion expected by 2014. He stated that in July 2012 Torrance Transit would be conducting a line-by-line analysis of their total services.

Engineering Manager Semaan added that at the community outreach meeting for the Transit Center several residents and business owners expressed interest in having connections from the Transit Center to Downtown Torrance and Hawthorne Boulevard.

In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiries, Administration Manager Mills stated that bicycle amenities would be incorporated in the Transit Center and that Torrance Transit buses can currently hold two bicycles.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that there is no proposed bike facility along that segment of Crenshaw Boulevard in the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan but that they are exploring options to accommodate bicycle riders and pedestrian access to and from the Transit Center.

Planning Manager Lodan discussed long-term plans and vision for the future environment that was identified in the City's Strategic Plan's goals and sub-goals and the General Plan's objectives and policies. He described the Development Impact Fee, Transportation Demand Management program, and the City's ordinance requiring new non-residential developments over 25,000 square feet to incorporate transportation strategies. He explained the various phases of the development review process that include plot plan review, application, discretionary review, hearing, plan check, construction, and inspections. He noted that staff reinforces what is important to the City with the applicant during every stage of the process. He explained Code requirements and special conditions that may be appropriate for a development. He noted that staff asks for a pedestrian circulation plan for each project that comes forward and that alternate forms of transit are taken into consideration whenever feasible.

Chairperson Rudolph indicated that different concepts should be allowed for a property in order to go beyond the basic modes of transportation in long-term planning. He questioned if installation of a shuttle stop could be a special condition and Planning Manager Lodan explained that if no provision exists there needs to be a reasonable and justifiable nexus as well as cost consideration.

Commissioner Sargent initiated a brief discussion regarding providing buses at lunchtime from places of employment to eating establishments.

Administration Manager Mills explained that because Torrance Transit receives federal funding they have to be cautious not to compete with charter companies. He

stated that they would look at the possibility and determine projected demand during their line-by-line analysis.

Chairperson Rudolph discussed the need to provide alternate modes of transportation from the financial center to Del Amo Mall. He stated that it should be a fun experience for people to encourage them to change their behavior, such as building a pedestrian overpass across Hawthorne Boulevard or enhancing the streetscape of the Del Amo Mall exterior.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that transit is one of the opportunities that the City provides and that a shuttle service can be explored if it is viable and feasible. He noted that a pedestrian bridge is an enormous expense and that this and other endeavors have to make financial sense to whoever implements them. He stated that implementation is a highly choreographed movement between the City and the private sector and, if it does not work for either of the two parties, it does not come to fruition.

Planning Manager Lodan discussed the Hawthorne Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan and efforts to have Mills Company provide more interactive connections in Del Amo Mall that were never implemented due to financial impact. He noted that conceptual plans are often never implemented but that staff tries to make sure that the core aspects are implemented.

Commissioner Siani offered her observation that much of Del Amo Mall is disjointed and not pedestrian-friendly and Planning Manager Lodan pointed out that part of the problem is multiple ownerships.

Engineering Manager Semaan discussed some of the ideas that are being explored for Downtown Torrance to improve mobility in ways other than the automobile.

Administration Manager Mills stated that he would take the Commissioners' suggestions to the Transit Director and consultant who will be conducting the analysis.

Chairperson Rudolph asked Mr. Mills to bring back some priorities and their modes of transportation that Commissioners could work with, excluding the financial component.

Engineering Manager Semaan stated that normally the City Council's Transportation Committee hears these types of transit considerations.

Administration Manager Mills noted that their highest priority is the Transit Center and assured him that they would explore a shuttle service from there to Del Amo Mall and Downtown Torrance.

Chairperson Rudolph stated that he had hoped to hear ideas that would change people's behavior and, if increased bus ridership and other forms of transportation is the goal, it is necessary to give people a reason to do that. He suggested looking at tying the Transit Center and Del Amo Mall now rather than waiting until 2014.

Administration Manager Mills responded that Torrance Transit is investing \$100,000 to explore all transportation services and that transit between the Transit Center and Del Amo Mall would be one of their priorities during the analysis.

Commissioner Tsao thanked Administration Manager Mills and Planning Manager Lodan for their presentations and suggested that staff keep the Commission updated as developments occur.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. The Commission welcomed Torrance Police Department Sergeant Koenig.

8b. In response to Commissioner Siani's inquiry, Sergeant Koenig explained parking enforcement efforts in Downtown Torrance.

8c. Responding to Commissioner Tsao's observation regarding In N Out, Sergeant Koenig stated that two Officers are routinely doing enforcement and education and that staff is exploring options to prevent drivers from turning left into and out of the facility.

8d. Commissioner Walter relayed a resident's inquiry about Van Ness and 198th and staff advised that there were some mechanical problems due to the rain.

8e. Engineering Manager Semaan stated that the Del Amo Boulevard project is on schedule and is projected to open this summer.

8f. Commissioner Siani discussed her visit to Caltrans with Commissioners Sargent and Tsao. She stated that it was very informative and expressed appreciation to staff for arranging the tour.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:53 p.m., Chairperson Rudolph adjourned the meeting to May 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

Approved as Submitted May 7, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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